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THE ENLISTMENT OF CORN FOR WAR IN 1944

By April, 1944, the flow of corn from farms to corn processors had come to a virtual standstill. Receipts of corn at elevators dropped from 10 million bushels to $2\frac{1}{2}$ million bushels a week from January and March.

THE SITUATION WAS ALARMING from a military standpoint. Corn products have no substitutes in making many items for war use; Core binders for metal castings, waterproof coatings, fiberboard containers, drugs, and literally scores of other materials needed to prosecute the war.

THE SERIOUSNESS of the situation was brought to the attention of the War Food Administration by the War Department and the War Production Board. WFA's first step was to issue a set-aside order requiring elevators in the heavy corn-growing areas to set aside part of their current stocks and receipts of corn for sale to designated processors. When this action failed to obtain sufficient corn, the Army and WPB again appealed to the War Food Administration.

WFA issued War Food Order No. 98 and designated the Agricultural Adjustment Agency and its local farmer committeemen to carry out the emergency program for obtaining corn. These committeemen made a farm-to-farm canvass, telling their neighbors of the emergency need for more corn to keep war plants running and seeking pledges of corn for sale to CCC. As an additional inducement, WFA offered free shelling and transportation services to farmers who sold corn to the Government.

ONE POINT was emphasized: Farmers were to sell only corn in excess of the normal feeding needs of themselves and their neighbors.

Soon after the campaign began, 12 teams of Army personnel toured the 125 counties in the area covered by WFO-98, appearing at special meetings arranged by AAA committees to explain the need for corn, telling briefly of

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battle experience and showing war films. The canvass for corn was also supplemented by an organized information campaign, principally through newspapers and radio stations.

By July 15, 1944, a total of 67,831,348 bushels of corn had been sold and delivered or contracted for sale to the Government. This, together with imports and other prospective domestic supplies, was sufficient corn to meet essential needs of war industries until the new crop became available in the fall.

ILLINOIS farmers offered 27,495,976 bushels of this total.

Evidence of the quick improvement in the supply situation is shown by these facts: On May 1, wet processors had less than 3 million bushels of corn--enough to run them little more than a week--on hand. On July 10, wet processors had more than 21 million bushels to draw from averaging nearly a 10-weeks' supply.

There were several tight situations:-- Lt. General Knudson telephoned one day in reference to core binder and foundry casting material for a Chicago foundry making critical parts for the B-29 Bombers and Rolls Royce engines made by Packard Company. Supplies had dwindled to a 48-hour inventory. Contact was made by telephone with corn processors, bringing relief within 24 hours, thereby preventing any shut-down or interruption of plant production.

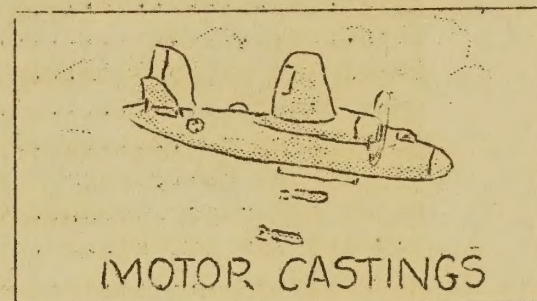
DURING THE LIFETIME OF THE CORN ORDER, not a single disruption occurred because of a lack of refined corn products in the plants producing war materials.

HOW CORN FIGHTS !

During the months of May, June, July and August--the four complete months covered by WFO Nos. 98 and 103--corn products amounting to 670 million pounds were distributed for war and industrial purposes. Of this 569 million pounds were produced by the wet-milling process and 94 million pounds by the dry-milling process. During the same period, 81 million pounds of crude and refined oil, approximately 330,000 tons of high protein feed and 934 million pounds of food were produced, along with the war and industrial products.

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48 MILLION POUNDS (finished product) were used as core binder for foundry castings in producing B-29 bomber parts, airplane engines, firing mechanism, for big army and naval guns, plus a wide range of bronze, steel, aluminum, copper and magnesium castings used in almost every phase of war material production.



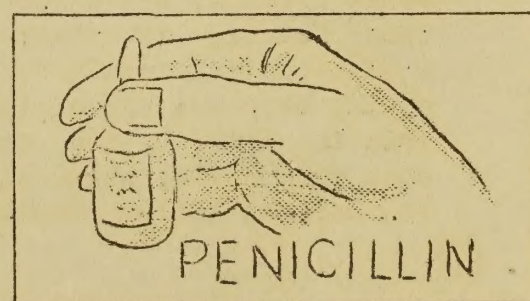
622,000 POUNDS went into the manufacture of sorbitol and manitol, the chemical used in making the small but vital detonating caps used to explode artillery shells and bombs, and small arms ammunition.

Textile manufacture accounts for the largest single use, requiring over 85 MILLION POUNDS. Textiles ranged all the way from bandages for the wounded to parachute cloth, uniforms, and tents.



25 MILLION POUNDS of corn starch were used in making V-board containers. In the manufacture of all types of paper, over 76 million pounds of starch were used.

In manufacturing many corn products, corn is first steeped in large tanks. This steep-water is extremely valuable in developing penicillin. Each month an average or approximately 140 MILLION GALLONS of steep water are shipped to laboratories making penicillin.



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Summary of June, July and August End Products Reports
of Dry Corn Milling Industry
(May 29 - September 9, 1944--15 weeks)

<u>Item</u>	<u>Pounds</u>
Abrasives.....	400
Adhesives.....	1,918,290
Asbestos.....	121,200
Ceramics.....	159,300
Chemicals and Explosives.....	3,905,619
Core binders.....	13,502,180
Government orders.....	39,785,146
Insulating material, gypsum board and other...	1,023,000
Paper and paper products.....	486,000
V-Board and containers.....	420,000
Miscellaneous.....	28,205,622
TOTAL.....	94,526,757

Summary of May, June, July and August, 1944:
End Products Reports of Wet Corn Milling Industry

Adhesives.....	38,952,056
Baking powder.....	19,685,280
Chemicals.....	13,307,245
Containerboard, V-Board and boxes.....	43,915,576
Core binders.....	29,443,638
Explosives.....	1,829,201
Hospitals for invalid feeding.....	39,360,113
Insulating materials.....	8,036,419
Laundry starch.....	13,262,272
Leather tanning and leather products.....	13,659,656
Medicinal products.....	6,694,477
Oil-well drilling and ore flotation agent.....	6,354,788
Paint products.....	233,701
Paper.....	75,908,568
Plywood.....	812,334
Rayon.....	8,147,543
Rubber.....	355,947
Textiles.....	85,794,577
Government orders.....	157,284,392
Miscellaneous.....	5,994,292
Sorbitol, manitol, and synthetic vitamins.....	622,134
TOTAL.....	569,654,209

*(Abrasives: dry batteries; cordage and twine; cork composition compounds; fibrous glass cloth; brake linings; brake locks, brake facings, & other friction material; ceramics, spark plugs & electronic insulators; industrial crayons & chalk; matches; photographic film; plastics; printing inks; molded products; salt water soap; shot gun shells, surgical dressings; synthetic resins, and boiler compounds.)